

Family Tree Maker[®] 2009

Family Tree Maker 2009 First Look



Well folks. Here is a list of the features and updates in the new version. This is I think my thirteenth “what’s new” in *Family Tree Maker* article for GUM. The programmers have been busy refining *Family Tree Maker* 2008 from SP3 to *Family Tree Maker* 2009 and as you can see a very comprehensive list. This will be a mainly pictorial first look commenting on a **just a few highlights**. Also note that this review is based on a late **beta version** and there could be further updates before final release which could slightly change what is presented here.

What’s New—from version 2008 SP3?

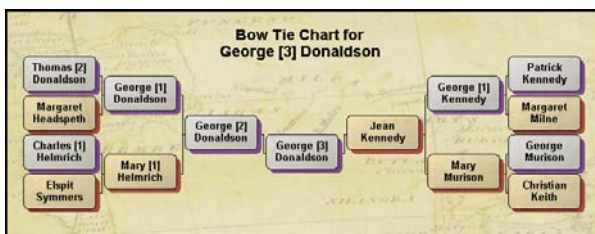
1. Data errors report (at last!!)
2. Simplified Register & Ahnentafel reports (similar to v16)
3. Horizontal hourglass chart
4. Bow tie chart
5. 180 Degree Fan chart
6. Family Tree chart
7. Ability to show siblings in charts
8. Single Page PDF export from charts
9. Full featured edit person dialog
 - (a) From a chart or report
 - (b) From the mini-pedigree
 - (c) From "People associated with this place" list
 - (d) Media or Source, list by Person
10. Map all of the places for an individual with migration path (Places workspace, sort by person dropdown)
11. More complete FTW import (import from earlier *Family Tree Maker* versions)
 - (a) OLE objects (PDF, Word, Excel, Power Point and RTF)
 - (b) Improved name parsing
 - (c) Import previously ignored hints lists
 - (d) Import of Automatic Reference Numbers
 - (e) Better import of description/place from FTW files
12. Set spouse order (Person menu)
13. Find Individual feature (Edit menu)
14. Find duplicate people (Edit menu)
15. Fact data options dialog (From Manage Facts or Fact options)
 - (a) Change fact type
 - (b) Move description to place or place to description
 - (c) Mark private
16. Ignore Ancestry hints
17. AKA as a separate entry in index
18. Ability to resize the left panel
19. More settings are remembered between sessions
 - (a) Expand on load in places
 - (b) Column sizes in fact grid
 - (c) Left panel sizing still needs to be saved
20. Set the order of person media items - this is done in people details
21. Dates are included in child menus
22. Option to enter special characters is available for Facts (Choose "Insert Symbol..." from Edit menu.)
23. Birth dates are included with names in “Link To” dialog
24. “Not Married” is accepted as a valid marriage date entry
25. Delete key can be used to delete a place (Places workspace)

26. Enter key can be used to edit a place (Places workspace)
27. Edit or enter any place name within Virtual Earth for mapping (Places workspace)
28. Display (some) cemeteries, libraries, courts, churches, hospitals, or custom types on the map (Places workspace)
29. Option to delete existing facts in individual and web merge
30. Enhancements to Web Dashboard to show account information from Ancestry.com
31. Performance Enhancements
32. It also comes with a comprehensive tutorial with narrative

New Charts

Four new charts have been added to the program. These are:

- Horizontal hourglass chart
- Bow tie chart
- 180 Degree Fan chart
- Family Tree chart

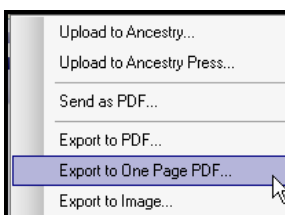


Bow Tie Chart (with parchment background)



Family Tree Chart

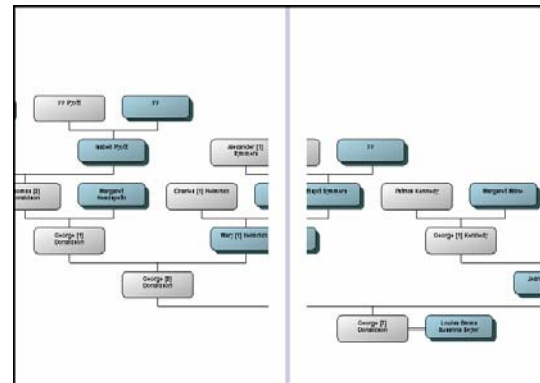
Single Page PDF Export in Charts



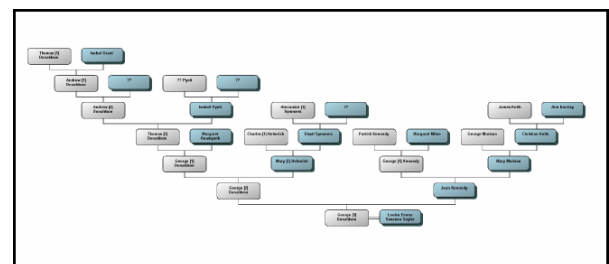
This has been in *Family Tree Maker* since version 10 and it lets you export a chart that might go over many pages to be shown as a single page. This makes

it great to attach the PDF file to an email and it can be opened and printed etc. exactly as you created it. This new feature lets you use charts and PDF more effectively.

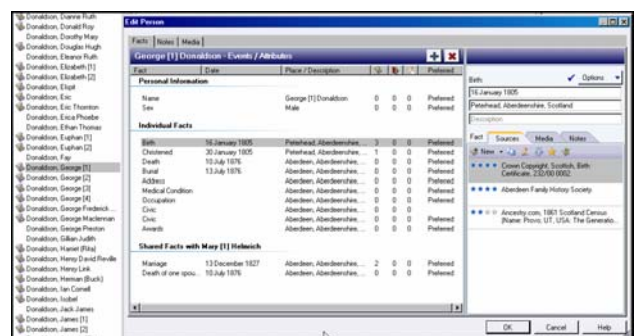
This becomes.....



This !!



Edit Person from Charts, Reports, Sources and Media

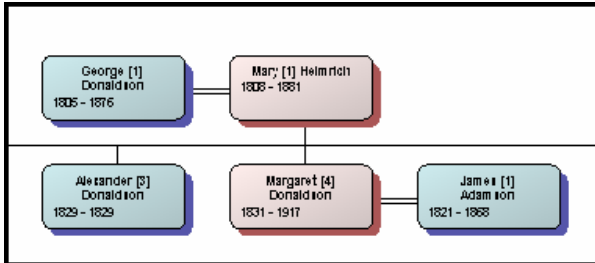


This is a supplementary Edit option that lets you edit a person without having to go back to the People Workspace. You could be in the Person View in Sources and spot a problem. Right click on the on the person and up pops a full edit dialog. It is not intended as the main edit facility but is useful when you are in other parts of the program and want to make some quick edits.

You can activate it from a chart or report, mini-pedigree, "People associated with this place" list and from a Media or Source, list by Person.

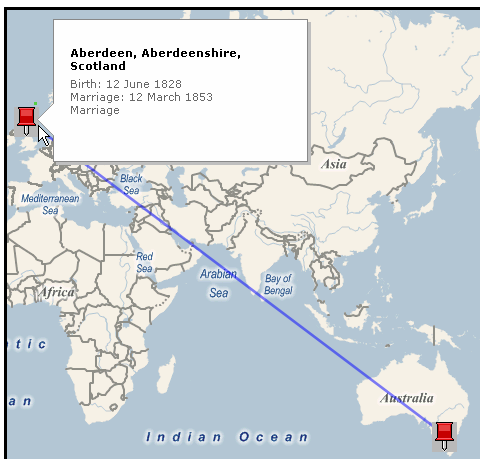
Year Span Dates

You can now add BBBB-YYYY Dates into a chart.



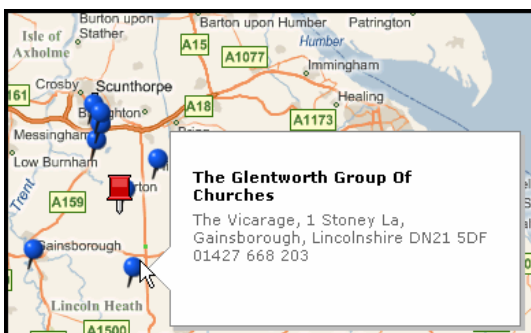
Map all of the places for an individual with migration path

This addition to Places (Virtual Earth) plots the key facts with places on a map. The white box only shows when you mouse over a thumb pin. The more places you add for a person that are different, the more interesting the path. The locations are all shown in the RH panel as well.



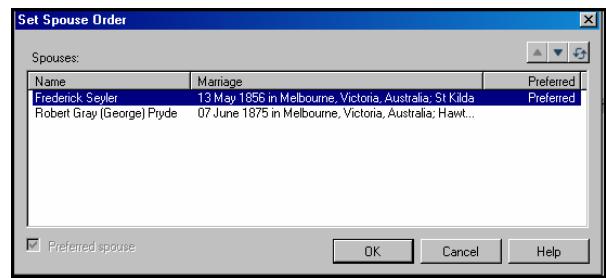
Find Cemeteries, Churches, Hospitals etc. on a Map

This lets you locate cemeteries, churches, hospitals, libraries and courts at a place. Clicking on the blue pin show the details. Hovering your mouse over a blue pin displays the details.



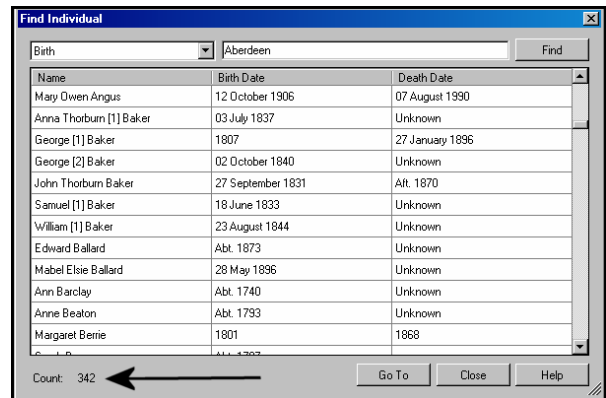
Set Spouse Order (Person menu)

This lets you set the spouse order for display



Find Individual

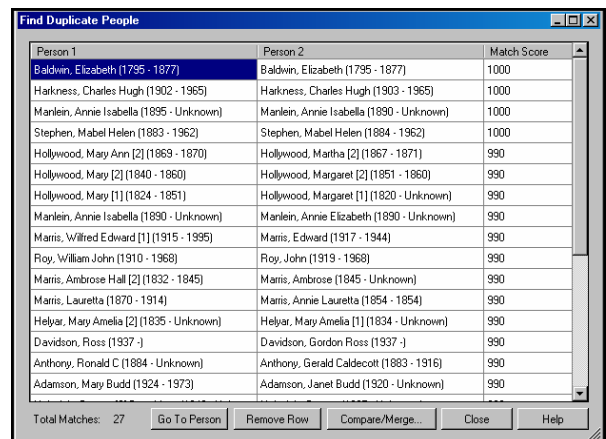
From the Edit Menu and lets you find people in the database.



Find Duplicate People

This one lets you find people that may have been duplicated in your data base. Note how it rates the matches with a ranking score. In the example, all those marked as 1,000 are true duplicates as well as some of the lower numbers. You have the option to compare and merge row by row. This dialog can stay active whilst you look at other parts of your file to verify the authenticity of the duplicate rating.

Find Duplicate locates records in the tree that could be matches. It compares the following data between records:



- name
- birth date
- death date
- place
- parent names
- other

When *Family Tree Maker* finds a match, it assigns a score according to how well the records match each other and adds the name to the duplicate list. You can then choose to merge the records or leave them as they are.

The following table describes the options available:

Options	Description
Person 1	The first record found by Family Tree Maker. Click the column header to sort this column alphabetically.
Person 2	The second record found by Family Tree Maker. Click the column header to sort this column alphabetically.
Match Score	The score assigned to the matching pair according to how closely they match. The higher the score, the closer that Family Tree Maker has determined that the two records match. Click the column header to sort this column.
Compare/Merge	Opens the Individual Merge dialog box so you can view the facts for the two records. You can then determine whether you want to merge the records.

The other thing about the Find Duplicate dialog it is “**Modeless**”. This means that it can remain on screen so you can refer to entries before deciding about potential duplicates. It has minimize and maximize buttons so it can be “hidden” until required in a session.

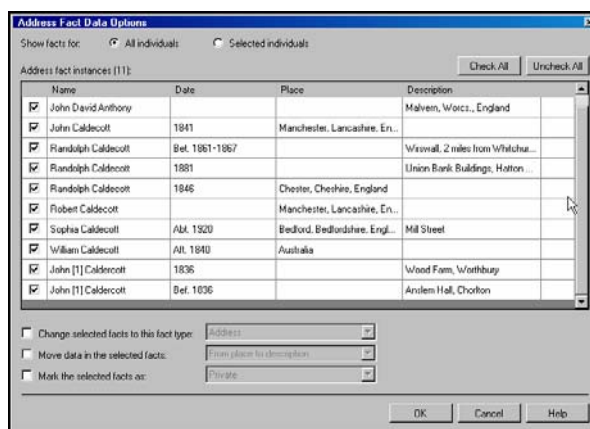
This, along with the Data Errors Report are excellent new tools to maintain data integrity.

Fact Data Options Dialog

A new feature, that allows you to swap Facts with Descriptions and vice versa. As well as moving between Facts and Descriptions, you can also mark a Fact as private.

The Fact Data Options dialog box lets you search for and select for batch processing, meaning that you can process many facts at the same time. The processing includes changing fact types, swapping text from one field to another, or marking several

(or hundreds) of facts as Private. Because the Fact Data Options can produce undesirable results if you are not careful, you should back up your tree before you process facts (the options is always presented to you before you the dialog box is opened).



The following table describes the options available:

Options	Description
Show facts for	Lets you select the people to display in the Fact instances list. You have two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Individuals: searches every record in your tree for records that reference the current fact. • Selected individuals: opens the Filter Individuals dialog box so you can filter your tree to include a subset based on the parameters you define. That subset is then searched for those records that reference the current fact.
Check All	Selects all of the individuals in the Fact instances list.
Uncheck All	Selects none of the individuals in the Fact instances list.
Fact Instances	Displays each instance of the fact for the selected individuals. The fact details are listed in the columns. You can sort the data by clicking a column header. You can select which facts to manage by marking or unmarking the check boxes next to the names.
Change select facts to this fact type	Changes the data in the selected facts from the current fact type to the fact type that you designate in the drop-down list.
Move data in the select facts	Moves the text from the either the Place field to the Description field or from the Description field to the Place field in each fact you have selected.
Mark the selected facts as	Marks the selected facts as either Private or not Private.

Set the Order of Person Media Items

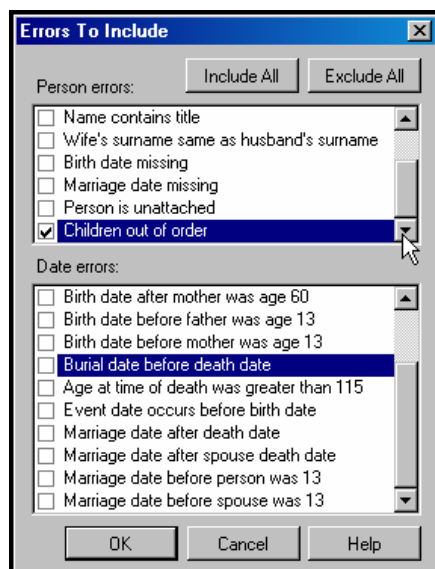
This enhancement was added because people wanted to arrange images in the Photo Album. The developers have come up with a somewhat novel way to do this. You go to where you have your Media thumbs in the Media Tab People>Person.

From there you select your Media and you can arrange the as you want it by selecting the media item and then clicking the ◀ or ▶ arrows. These changes are reflected in the Photo Album in the Publish Workspace.

The thing that I would like to see is the ability to “hide” a photo(s) so they are not displayed. The workaround is to unlink any unwanted images, run the Photo Album Report then link the images back. This could be tedious with a lot of images.



Data Errors Report



This is one that I have been waiting for and it includes the menu that I have often bemoaned the absence of.

A Data Error Report is an **essential**

tool in genealogy data bases as it lets you locate and fix data errors.

Family Tree Maker up to version 16 has always had a Data Errors Report, but it suffered one big drawback in that it located and reported on **every error** including things like marriage date missing. As a result, if you were trying to focus on [say]

“children out of birth order”, you had to wade through pages of irrelevant information.

Thankfully this has been fixed as the new Data Errors Report has an excellent “Errors to Include” menu where you can select any or all the errors that you wish to focus on. ☺

There are two error categories:

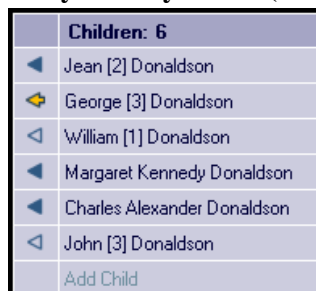
- Person errors and
- Date errors

You can see some of the errors classes supported in each category. This one works a treat. My only gripe is that you can’t double click on a name in the data errors report like you can up to *Family Tree Maker* 16 and go to the edit area.

Simple Register & Ahnentafel reports (similar to v16)

These reports are similar to the Register and Ahnentafel reports but only includes vital facts in the narrative. Non vital facts (if included) are listed separately.

Find your way Home (undocumented)



Family Tree Maker 2008 has had this ability to always point to the home person in the children’s area.

It is a black arrow with a tail but it is hard to pick up alongside black head arrows indicating further information. The home arrow has now been changed to a more distinctive orange colour. A small thing, but just gives the program a bit more flair.

For those with a black and white copy of the Newsletter, it is George [3] Donaldson my grandfather. So to find your way home, (to the home person), “follow the yellow orange brick road”.... just click on the orange arrows.

Add Symbol



You can now add symbols and accents to names etc.

There are many more new features (see the list at the top of the article) but this walk through gives you some idea of what has been added.

Comment/Appreciation:

I think that it is clear, given the extensive number of changes on top of the equally extensive list of enhancements in the SP3 patch for *Family Tree Maker 2008* that the developers are keen to ensure that the program continues to offer a range of interesting features for the family historian.

Family Tree Maker still polarises previous users some liking the “new” format some wishing for the old format, however I am starting to see comment, especially following the *Family Tree Maker 2008* SP3 patch, that as people proceed up the learning curve they are preferring the new program.

What is Missing?

The obvious “biggie” is the Book but the following is promised:

Here’s what’s coming:

“In addition, we are currently working on new features that will be available as part of *Family Tree Maker 2009*—as soon as they become available:”

- Book Building
- Better Ancestry Member Tree Integration
- Improved Relationship Calculator
- Source templates based on Evidence Explained by source expert, Elizabeth Shown Mills
- And many others...☺

Packaging:

Family Tree Maker 2009 will be available in the following package



Family Tree Maker 2009 Platinum Edition

Family Tree Maker 2009
program CD

Note: There is no single CD flat pack available.

Bonus Material:

- Free 6 months subscription to Ancestry.com.au worth over \$120.00
- *The Getting Started Guide to Family Tree Maker™*

Simple directions to begin a project and master the program’s basic features.

- *Interactive Training Tutorial*

Step-by-step instructions and tips that will help you easily build and grow your family tree.

- *The Family Tree Maker™ Little Book of Answers*

Short sections on how Family Tree Maker™ can work best for you.

- *Exclusive Offer for Your Family History Magazine*

Get 13 issues for \$107(a saving of \$100) Perfect for tracing your UK ancestors, it's packed with hints and tips for finding the records of your family's past, with specific advice on using Internet resources.

DVD/CDs

- New South Wales, Assisted & Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896 (DVD-ROM)
- Pallot's Baptism Index 1780 - 1837 (CD)
- Pallot's Marriage Index 1780 - 1837 (CD)

Availability:

GUM expects to have *Family Tree Maker 2009* available from 1st October 2008
Details on our website at:
<http://www.vicgum.asn.au/software.html>

Price: Expected RRP \$100.00

Operating Requirements:

The following has been specified:

- Operating System: Windows XP/Vista
- Processor: 1GB Intel Pentium 3 or equivalent. (A faster processor recommended)
- Hard Disk: 400 MB for installation. Additional space required for data files
- Memory: 512 MB of RAM (**My recommendation: 1GB of RAM XP and 2GB Vista!!!!**)
- Monitor: 800x600 resolution (1024x768 resolution recommended)
- Internet: All online features require internet access, preferably broadband.

John Donaldson

And all will be revealed at the *Family Tree Maker* workshop at the Mt Waverley Community Centre on Sunday 23rd November 2008 starting at 10:00 am. No bookings required.

If you have never been to a GUM workshop then check out the FAQs at:

http://www.vicgum.asn.au/GUM_WorkshopFAQs.pdf